



# CHICOPEE

## Hampden County



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## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

The City of Chicopee is located near the junction of the Massachusetts Turnpike and Interstate 91 and is a diverse urban community which serves as the home of Westover Air Force Base. The city has mined its industrial past for present uses, having transformed a number of 19th century industrial buildings and locations into mixed modern uses. An example of this is the sprawling complex of 19th century brick buildings known as Cabotville Industrial Park, which has housed a variety of small and medium-sized industries for the past 50 years.

The city is particularly well served for transportation, boasting two airports, the Boston and Main Railroad and regular long distance as well as local bus service. This supports a strong industrial base which manufactures sporting goods, textiles, beverages, paper, office supplies and the eastern edition of the Wall Street Journal.

Westover Air Force Base is a key part of the local economy, employing about 1,000 local residents and housing 2,500 reservists of the 439th Military Airlift Wing. The base was the staging area for American troops during the Persian Gulf war. Recycled former military housing from the base serves as the nucleus of a planned development that will include both market rate and affordable housing.

An historic district in Chicopee Center encompasses stately homes from the city's past and an historic shad run on the Connecticut and Chicopee Rivers brings thousands of enthusiastic fisherman to the city each spring. Each fall, one of the largest Polish celebrations in the United States takes place in Chicopee when 75,000 visitors come to feast on kielbasa and dance the polka, while biannually the Great New England Air Show brings upwards of 700,000 people to Westover for a three-day air extravaganza. Chicopee residents feel their city's history is a living tie to the present, echoing the diversity of population, the welcome to immigrants, the production of fine industrial products and the pride that was present at the city's incorporation and is present now.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Southwestern Massachusetts, bordered by West Springfield and Holyoke on the west, South Hadley and Granby on the north, Ludlow on the east, and Springfield on the south. Chicopee is 92 miles southwest of Boston; 90 miles from Albany, New York; and 140 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 23.91 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 22.88 sq. miles

**Population:** 56,632

**Density:** 2,475 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Springfield Station)

Normal temperature in January.....26.8°F

Normal temperature in July.....74.1°F

Normal annual precipitation.....43.9"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Springfield North, Mount Tom

## Regional Planning Agency

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Springfield



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 594-4711

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Mayor-Council

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1848

As a city: 1890

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	26,920		
Democrats	15,369	57.1	%
Republicans	2,442	9.1	%
Other parties	12	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	9,097	33.8	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Chicopee city, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	54,653	100.0	<b>HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE</b>		
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>			Total population.....	54,653	100.0
Male.....	25,994	47.6	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	4,790	8.8
Female.....	28,659	52.4	Mexican.....	93	0.2
Under 5 years.....	2,986	5.5	Puerto Rican.....	3,932	7.2
5 to 9 years.....	3,570	6.5	Cuban.....	32	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	3,502	6.4	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	733	1.3
15 to 19 years.....	3,741	6.8	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	49,863	91.2
20 to 24 years.....	3,206	5.9	White alone.....	47,478	86.9
25 to 34 years.....	7,218	13.2	<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>		
35 to 44 years.....	8,510	15.6	Total population.....	54,653	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	7,276	13.3	In households.....	53,647	98.2
55 to 59 years.....	2,759	5.0	Householder.....	23,117	42.3
60 to 64 years.....	2,247	4.1	Spouse.....	9,859	18.0
65 to 74 years.....	4,643	8.5	Child.....	15,484	28.3
75 to 84 years.....	3,953	7.2	Own child under 18 years.....	11,204	20.5
85 years and over.....	1,042	1.9	Other relatives.....	2,317	4.2
Median age (years).....	38.7	(X)	Under 18 years.....	719	1.3
18 years and over.....	42,284	77.4	Nonrelatives.....	2,870	5.3
Male.....	19,689	36.0	Unmarried partner.....	1,538	2.8
Female.....	22,595	41.3	In group quarters.....	1,006	1.8
21 years and over.....	40,190	73.5	Institutionalized population.....	310	0.6
62 years and over.....	10,929	20.0	Noninstitutionalized population.....	696	1.3
65 years and over.....	9,638	17.6	<b>HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE</b>		
Male.....	3,752	6.9	Total households.....	23,117	100.0
Female.....	5,886	10.8	Family households (families).....	14,139	61.2
<b>RACE</b>			With own children under 18 years.....	6,135	26.5
One race.....	53,650	98.2	Married-couple family.....	9,859	42.6
White.....	49,089	89.8	With own children under 18 years.....	3,742	16.2
Black or African American.....	1,244	2.3	Female householder, no husband present.....	3,293	14.2
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	107	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	1,929	8.3
Asian.....	474	0.9	Nonfamily households.....	8,978	38.8
Asian Indian.....	59	0.1	Householder living alone.....	7,560	32.7
Chinese.....	117	0.2	Householder 65 years and over.....	3,263	14.1
Filipino.....	36	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	6,660	28.8
Japanese.....	41	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	7,062	30.5
Korean.....	70	0.1	Average household size.....	2.32	(X)
Vietnamese.....	73	0.1	Average family size.....	2.96	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	78	0.1	<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	57	0.1	Total housing units.....	24,424	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	11	-	Occupied housing units.....	23,117	94.6
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	3	-	Vacant housing units.....	1,307	5.4
Samoa.....	34	0.1	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	9	-	occasional use.....	87	0.4
Some other race.....	2,679	4.9	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.9	(X)
Two or more races.....	1,003	1.8	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	4.8	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			<b>HOUSING TENURE</b>		
<i>or more other races: <sup>3</sup></i>			Occupied housing units.....	23,117	100.0
White.....	49,962	91.4	Owner-occupied housing units.....	13,717	59.3
Black or African American.....	1,553	2.8	Renter-occupied housing units.....	9,400	40.7
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	270	0.5	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.46	(X)
Asian.....	611	1.1	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.11	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	86	0.2			
Some other race.....	3,212	5.9			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



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# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 816

Conventional Federal: 383

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0

Federal (Section 8): 397



# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

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Chicopee is located in the Pioneer Valley, known as the crossroads of New England because of its strategic position along the Connecticut River and its excellent transportation facilities. The Massachusetts Turnpike connects the region to Boston and to Albany, New York. Interstate 91 provides direct access to Hartford, Connecticut, and to Brattleboro and points north in Vermont.

### Major Highways

Principal highways are the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate Route 90), which passes through the southern sector, and Interstate Route 91, which passes through the western sector.

### Rail

Passenger rail service to Hartford, Boston, New York, Montreal, and all other points on the Amtrak network is available through nearby Springfield. The Springfield Terminal Railway provides freight service in Chicopee. Contact number: (508) 663-1073

### Bus

Chicopee is a member of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA), which offers fixed route service within Chicopee as well as to Springfield and Holyoke. The PVTA also offers paratransit services to the elderly and disabled through the Council on Aging. Chicopee participates in the PVTA Under-60 Program, which provides work trip transportation for the disabled.

### Other

Westover Metropolitan Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located 3 mi NE of Chicopee, has 2 asphalt and concrete runways: 7,050'x 150' and 11,600'x 300'. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision.



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

None

### Long Term Care

Birch Manor Nursing Home

Chicopee Municipal Home

Summerfield Elms Manor Nursing Home

Willimansett East Nursing Home

Willimansett West Nursing Home

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

Chicopee Rest Home

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.